(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A representation was received against transfer of 4000 customers from M/s Ambica Gas Service, Ahmedabad. The matter was examined in consultation with IOC and it was ascertained that the distributorship was operating at 115% of the refill ceiling limits. Even after transfer of customers, the subject distributorship would be operating at nearly 100% of the ceiling limit of 12000 refills per month.

Crude oil demand and production

1019. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the annual demand and production of crude oil in the country;

(b) the total quantity of crude imported in the country both quantity and value-wise;

(c) the total outflow of foreign exchange due to these imports; and

(d) what are the immediate steps, being taken to increase indigenous production of crude in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The crude oil demand in the year 2006-07 was 141.463 MMT, and the crude oil production in the country during 2006-07 was 31.513 MMT.

(b) Crude oil imports in the year 2006-07 was 111.502 MMT valued at Rs. 219,029 crore.

(c) The foreign exchange for crude oil imports in the year 2006-07 was US$ 48.389 million.

(d) Various measures are being taken to substantially accelerate exploration activities for enhancing domestic oil and gas production which include the following:

(i) Carving out more and more areas for exploration for offer under various rounds of NELP.

(ii) Quicker development of discovered reserves for enabling commencement of production.

(iii) Use of stimulation techniques for increasing production from existing fields.

(iv) Application of Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) techniques for increasing recovery factor from existing fields.

(v) Arresting decline from ageing fields.

(vi) Acquisition of exploration acreages and producing properties overseas to bring in equity oil.

(vii) Substitution of oil through use of non-conventional source of energy such as bio-diesel, ethanol, etc.